



United States Department of State  
Special Issuance Agency  
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Washington, D.C. 20036

July 14, 2006

## Memorandum

To: All Federal Agencies

From: Barbara M. Chesman *BMC*

Subject: Electronic Official Passports

Effective July 2006, we will be processing the long-awaited E-Passport (Electronic Passport) for Official passport applicants. The new passport will feature an integrated circuit (or "chip") that conforms to the latest international passport standards. This Electronic Passport provides automated photo verification, faster and more accurate immigration inspections, and greater border protection and security.

For your convenience, I am enclosing a Power Point presentation which describes and answers most questions regarding the E-passport. The data page has been moved from the inside cover of the passport to the second page (where the secretary's message currently is located). The new passport also features new pictures of "American Icons" and will be larger in size, 28 pages. Passport Services will begin to issue E-Passports for tourists later in 2006.

Please remember that as a result of this new technology, we can no longer amend passports. Please refer to my memo dated September 6, 2005 for specific information related to the No Amendment Policy. As always, feel free to contact me or any member of my staff for questions regarding the new passports.

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# THE ELECTRONIC PASSPORT

Special Issuance Agency  
U.S. Department of State

## The Electronic Passport

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- **What is the E- Passport?**

- It is a combination of facial recognition and contact-less chip technology.

- **The Electronic Chip**

- Imbedded in the cover of the passport.
- Contains the same information as that which is printed on the data page of the passport: name, date and place of birth, passport number and photo of the bearer.
- Holds the unique chip ID number and digital signature to protect stored data from alteration.

## What does the E-Passport look like?

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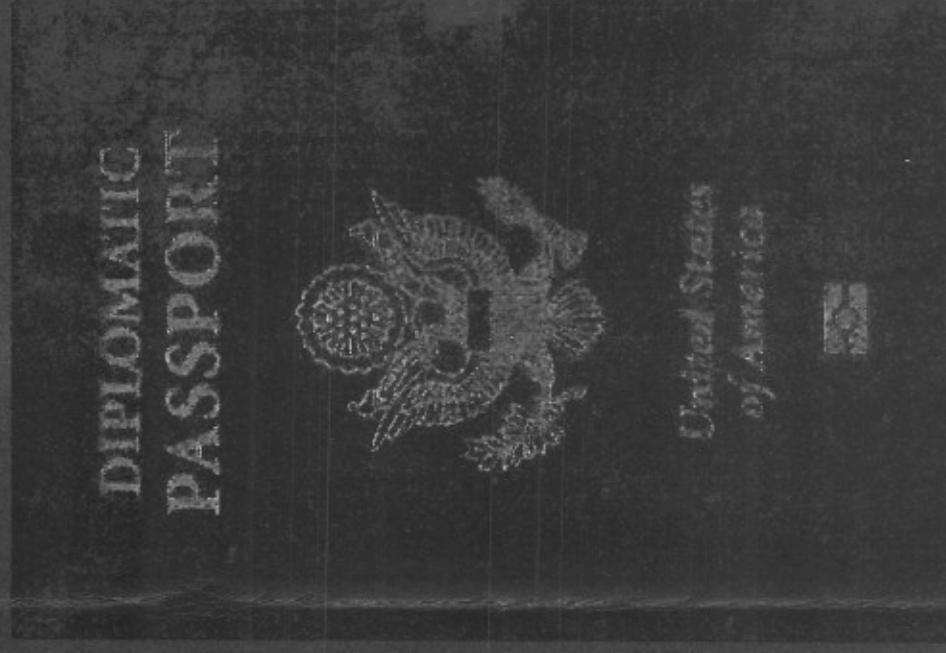
This new passport is different in appearance:

- The front cover of the book bears the international e-passport symbol.
- The data page of the passport is now located on the second page of the passport rather than the inside front cover.
- Inside, each visa page features historical and geographical scenes from US history and culture.
- It will be larger in size – 28 or 52 pages.

# The Front Cover of the E- Passport

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The international e-passport symbol is placed at bottom center of the front cover.



# Data Page of the E-Passport

The passport information is no longer printed on the inside cover of the passport book. It now appears on the second page of the passport.

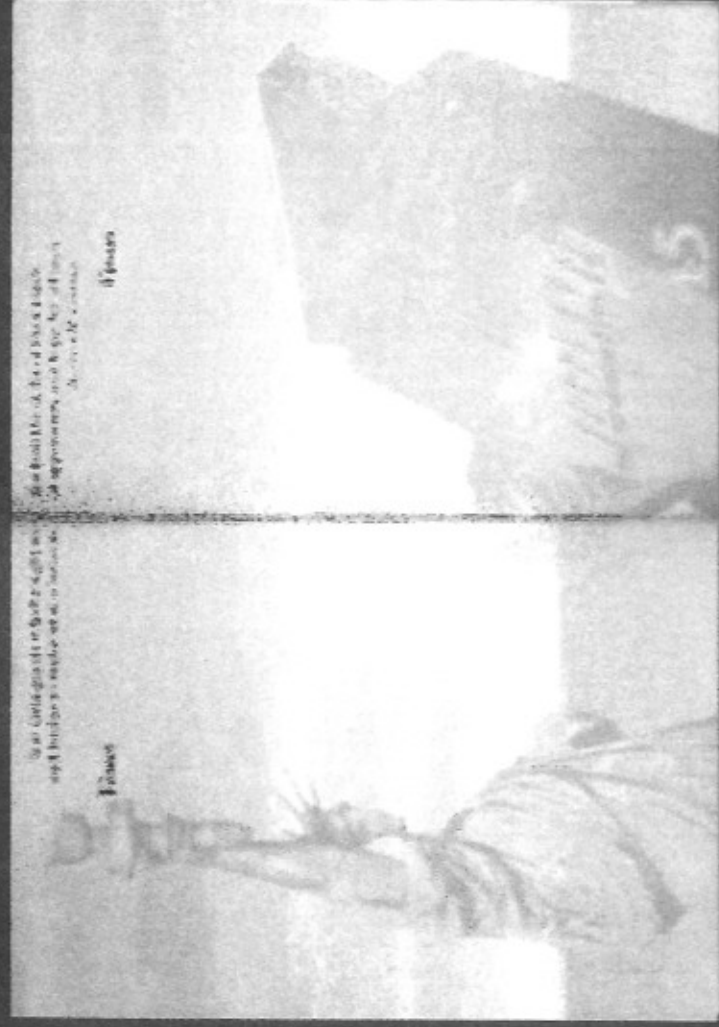




# New Designs on the Visa Pages

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Each visa page shows different historical and geographical scenes from US history and culture.



## Important Points to Remember:

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- As a result of the new technology of the E-Passport there will be no more amendments.
- It will now be necessary to apply for a new passport if there is a need to change any information on the data page.